



Seattle Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Grace Crunican, Director

August 29, 2006

Subject: Planned New Parking Pay Stations and Residential Parking Zone in Uptown

Dear Uptown business owners, residents and property owners:

As you may have seen, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) converted the traditional parking meters to pay station kiosks in Uptown/Lower Queen Anne this past May. On-street parking throughout Uptown is often full. Paid on-street parking can encourage area employees and Seattle Center visitors who wish to park for longer durations to more appropriately park in off-street lots, thereby opening up spaces in the business district for customers and visitors.

Also in May, SDOT proposed in a letter to community organizations to install new paid parking and expand the existing Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) in areas of the Uptown neighborhood that now have time-limit signs and in some cases no parking restrictions. **This letter describes SDOT's decision to install paid parking and RPZ Zone 13 signs on certain streets. This work is expected to start in early to mid-September.** Please see the attached map.

Upon further consideration and after reviewing community comments received, SDOT decided to keep the Uptown on-street parking plan as proposed in May. We believe these new paid parking and RPZ spaces present a balanced package to meet both short-term customer and long-term residential needs. Short-term customer parking and dependable parking turnover is critical for maintaining the health of business districts such as Uptown. Paid parking makes it easier for customers and visitors to find an available parking space, especially in areas where competition for parking is tough.

Staff heard from many residents over the last few months about on-street parking in Uptown, especially concerns about the impacts of paying for parking during the day. I want to assure you that residents are critically important to the continued livability of Uptown and other Center City neighborhoods. For that reason, **SDOT is expanding the existing RPZ to accommodate residents.** The new RPZ will give residents a better chance of finding parking, especially in the evening when these RPZ blocks will be available only for vehicles with RPZ permits from 6 PM to Midnight.

SDOT is also working to make obtaining an RPZ permit easier. SDOT has already mailed an RPZ permit application to all residents who live between 2nd Avenue West, West Roy/Roy Street, 2nd Avenue North and Denny Way. All owners of vehicles registered to residents within this boundary can obtain a permit for each vehicle. The permit cost per vehicle is \$35 for up to two years with one \$15 guest permit available per household. All zone 13 permits issued at this time will expire March 31, 2007.

Residents who live outside of this boundary who already have an RPZ permit will not be affected by this expansion.

SDOT recognizes that the change from free to paid parking can be a challenging transition that often requires a few months of adjustment. SDOT will monitor the new paid parking and RPZ areas to make sure that City goals are being met. Staff are currently working on legislation that offers SDOT an additional policy tool to be able to combine a residential parking zone with paid parking for the same



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parking spaces. Non-RPZ permit vehicles would have access to the paid parking, while vehicles with RPZ permits would be able to park all day without having to pay at the pay station. This new policy could be available by the end of this year.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that SDOT and King County Metro will launch the "In Motion Uptown" project in the spring of 2007. The "In Motion" program will engage residents of Uptown in their transportation options; increase the use of busing, biking and walking; and reduce reliance on the automobile. The program provides local marketing strategies for community groups and incentives to take transportation options for people who pledge to reduce their driving. In addition, SDOT has a program called "Commuter Cash" that provides participants up to \$150 for reducing driving to work alone. This program is available to anyone who commutes within or to Seattle by automobile on a regular basis. For more information, please contact SDOT's Way to Go program at 206-615-1550 or waytogo@seattle.gov.

Timeline for Installation

SDOT expects to install the Residential Parking Zone signs and the parking pay station kiosks from mid-September into October. In the meantime, you may see new markings along the street as SDOT staff work to determine the proper kiosk and sign locations. Large temporary blue street signs will be installed a week or so in advance of the paid parking to let area parkers prepare for the change from free to paid parking. All paid parking spaces will have 2-hour or 30-minute time limits and operate between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The RPZ will allow 2-hour parking during the day without RPZ permit and RPZ permitted vehicles only from 6 PM to Midnight, daily. Bus stops and layover zones, peak period parking restrictions and other spaces will not change. Some load zones may be moved closer to intersections. Business owners or managers interested in free, City-installed on-street bicycle racks should contact the SDOT Bicycle Program at 206-684-7583 or email pauh.wang@seattle.gov.

For more information

I am hopeful that these changes reflect a balanced approach to meeting the needs of businesses, customers, visitors, and residents. For more information about this effort, please contact Mary Catherine Snyder, the Seattle Department of Transportation project manager, at 206-684-8110 or marycatherine.snyder@seattle.gov.

Sincerely,

WAYNE WENTZ, P.E., P.T.O.E.
Director of Traffic Management and City Traffic Engineer

New Paid Parking and RPZ in Uptown



Legend

- New Paid Parking Spaces
- Existing Meters Converted to Pay Stations
- No changes to Signs or Unrestricted
- New Residential Parking Zone
- Remaining No Parking, Load Zones, Bus Stops

NOTE: This map shows only existing meters and areas where new paid parking and residential parking zone 13 will be installed. Only some bus stops, loading zones and no parking areas are shown. No changes are proposed for bus, loading and no-parking areas. Driveways are not shown.



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